

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

North Carolina is one of only 8 states, all east of the Appalachian Mountains, in which hunting on Sunday is not legal (with the exception of limited hunting on some federal installations). In response to the considerable interest expressed in changing North Carolina law to allow hunting on Sunday, the General Assembly considered three bills in 2005 related to the topic. Although none of the bills passed, the General Assembly and the Governor instructed the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to study the issue, assess public opinion and report back to the 2007 General Assembly. This report describes the results of a study conducted on behalf of the Wildlife Resources Commission by Responsive Management, Virginia Tech and Southwick Associates between January and August, 2006. Objectives of the study included:

1. Identify all stakeholder groups relevant to the issue of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina.
2. Conduct a series of stakeholder meetings with representatives from groups identified in #1 above which may have an interest in Sunday hunting to gather views of these groups on Sunday hunting in order to facilitate additional qualitative and quantitative assessments.
3. Qualitatively gather public views on Sunday hunting by conducting a series of focus groups throughout North Carolina.
4. Qualitatively gather hunter views on Sunday hunting by conducting a series of focus groups throughout North Carolina.
5. Develop and conduct a phone survey of North Carolina citizens to gather quantitative data on public views on Sunday hunting.
6. Develop and conduct a mail survey of North Carolina hunters to gather quantitative data on hunter views of Sunday hunting.
7. Estimate the possible impacts of Sunday hunting on hunting participation, such as numbers of hunters, number of days hunted, hunter recruitment and hunter retention.
8. Estimate the possible impacts of Sunday hunting on the North Carolina economy.
9. Estimate the real fiscal costs and benefits to the Wildlife Resources Commission on implementing Sunday hunting, such as changes in costs for law enforcement and check station management activities, impacts on game lands infrastructure, and changes in license sales revenue and federal aid.
10. Prepare a written final report of study findings before the 2007-2008 session of the North Carolina General Assembly and present the findings in person to the Wildlife Resources Commission.